

any species feeding on the Soapwort, though a few of the leaves did show some feeding damage.

These few special efforts have so far failed to locate the Bordered Gothic but I shall keep trying, as spare time allows, meanwhile hoping that one day I shall capture the moth incidentally during light-trapping for other purposes. Hopefully, a special BENHS field meeting that I am proposing for 2004, at Barnham Cross Common, in Norfolk, where Dudley (2003) reports finding the moth during the 1990s, will be more productive. Meanwhile, I wish others who are searching for this moth better luck than I have had so far, but I have enjoyed the hunt!

I would like to thank Bob Shirtcliffe and Mick Beeson for their help with the fieldwork and Writtle College, Essex, for their support in preparing this report.— PAUL WARING, Reader, Writtle College. Address for correspondence: Windmill View, 1366 Lincoln Road, Werrington, Peterborough PE4 6LS (e-mail: paul_waring@btinternet.com).

Records of *Ceutorhynchus syrites* Germar (Col.: Curculionidae): a suggestion and a plea for information

Mr. A. A. Allen (2000, *Ent. Rec.* **112**: 211-3) has drawn attention to the account of Coleoptera in the *Victoria History of the County of Cornwall* (1906, Clark, J. in Page, W.) (*VCH*) as a source of records from the county, including *C. syrites*, which, as he states, is a 'very rare species with us'. He goes on to opine that the record in *A review of the scarce and threatened Coleoptera of Great Britain, part I* (Hyman, P. S. & Parsons, M. S., 1992) 'can hardly refer to Lamb's find' (at Padstow, in the *VCH* account). Could this not be a case of confusion between the use of a term in its general and specialised sense, similar to that of 'notable', on which the Editor has ruled (2001, *Ent. Rec.* **113**: 83)? The Cornish town of Padstow, though hardly to be thought of as in 'West Cornwall', is actually situated within the vice-county of that name (Dandy, J. E. 1969, *Watsonian Vice-Counties of Great Britain*). Vice-counties (Allen's 'county divisions') were used in the Review to summarise distributions. Hyman & Parsons (*op. cit.*) state of *C. syrites* in Britain 'Last recorded in 1966 from Aston Rowant, Oxfordshire'. The source of this record is quite unknown to me and enquiries of individuals and organisations likely to have information about it have failed to locate it. As all other published records of the weevil are nineteenth century ones this putative Aston Rowant occurrence is of considerable interest and importance. Can any reader of the *Record* help?— M. G. MORRIS, Orchard House, 7 Clarence Road, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 2HF (E-mail: mgmorris.ent@virgin.net).

The Pale Pinion: *Lithophane hepatica* Clerk (Lep.: Noctuidae) in Norfolk

A singleton of this species was taken in a Rothamsted Insect Survey light-trap at Wells-next-the-Sea (trap number 274, O.S.grid reference TF 917434) on the night of 5/6 October 2002. This species is most often found in wooded areas of the south-west of the country, Wales and western Ireland, so its occurrence in East Anglia is most unusual. I am informed by Gerry Haggett of the Norfolk Moth Group that this is the

first record of this species in the county since 1980. Although there is no evidence from the same trap of any amount of migrant activity at the time, this specimen was most probably an immigrant.

My thanks to Gerry Haggett for letting me know the unusual nature of this record; and to Christine Marshall of Wells Field Centre for her efficient operation of our light-trap.— PHILIP J. L. GOULD, Rothamsted Insect Survey, Plant & Invertebrate Ecology Division, Rothamsted Research, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, AL5 2JQ (E-mail: phil.gould@bbsrc.ac.uk).

EDITORIAL COMMENT:

It may be that the Pale Pinion is on the increase in East Anglia. It has become tolerably frequent in my garden on the east edge of Hertfordshire in the last few years, with both pre- and post-hibernation adults in the trap. For Hertfordshire as a whole, there are 12 records since 1 January 2000, but only four records before that date. For Essex, county recorder Brian Goodey tells me that Dave Perry captured an adult at Great Dunmow in April 2004; the third Essex record, but only the first since publication of a list in the *Victoria County History of Essex* in 1903. Since then, Phil Jenner has taken more examples at light in his garden at Chrishall in north-west Essex.

News on the conservation of some UK Biodiversity Action Plan moths in 2003

Barberry Carpet *Pareulype berberata* (D. & S.)

There was no funding available from English Nature for survey and monitoring of the Barberry Carpet moth *Pareulype berberata* in 2003, for the first time since 1987. The limited funds available were used to maintain the captive stock of the moth and support and encourage propagation and planting of Common Barberry *Berberis vulgaris*, the larval foodplant, to increase the size of some remaining stands. Captive breeding of the moth was very successful, almost certainly due to the prolonged warm dry summer, as in previous years with such weather. Between 3,000 and 4,000 pupae are now (January 2004) hibernating in care of Whipsnade Wild Animal Park and the Zoo Federation. However, no livestock was released into establishment sites during the year, pending the results of a scan for exotic pathogens, expected to take place at London Zoo this winter. Concerns over this issue were raised following the detection of exotic gregarine parasites in the culture of Field Crickets *Gryllus campestris* L. being reared at London Zoo for release in Britain

In order to prevent a complete break in the continuity of the survey and monitoring, I spent 2 September 2003 visiting and assessing the populations and habitat condition of most of the occupied sites in Wiltshire and Gloucestershire, and meeting land-owners and other interested parties, supported by Writtle College, University of Essex. Good numbers of Barberry Carpet larvae were seen at most of the nine native sites, but over-zealous, almost brutal, trimming of foodplants while the second generation of larvae was feeding was a problem at two sites. No larvae were seen at one of the native sites, nor nearby where occupied host plants had been translocated in February 2001.